

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

A<sup>1</sup>  
The present invention relates to tableware or flatware (cutter, and cutlery such as a knife, fork and spoon, as well as related serving pieces) and a process for surface treatment of the tableware. More particularly, the invention relates to titanium or titanium alloy tableware, the surface of which has been hardened by surface treatment, and a process for surface treatment of the tableware.

**Please delete the section heading "OBJECT OF THE INVENTION" which begins on page 6, at line 8.**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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A<sup>2</sup>  
The present invention solves the problems associated with the prior art as described above and provides titanium or titanium alloy tableware having excellent appearance quality, which is capable of maintaining its beautiful mirror surface even if it is used for a long period of time, by the formation of a hardened layer which extends into a deep region beneath the surface.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

A<sup>3</sup>  
The invention further provides a process for surface treatment with high productivity, which is applied on titanium or titanium alloy tableware to impart the above-mentioned excellent appearance quality to the tableware.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

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Still further, the invention solves the problems associated with the prior art as described above by providing a substrate having a hard decorative coating film, which is free

from the occurrence of marring on the decorative coating film and formation of irregularities on the substrate surface even if a strong force is applied to the coating film surface, wherein the coating film resists separation. The invention also provides a process for producing the substrate.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

The invention further provides a titanium or titanium alloy substrate coated with a hard decorative coating film having a durable, beautiful surface even after long periods of use which retains its excellent quality and appearance.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

In view of the problems associated with the prior art as described above, it is a further object of the invention to provide cutlery which is lightweight, likely to float on water, has an easy grip and a good touch, and is decorative and inexpensive.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

It is a further object of the invention to make it possible to wash the present cutlery easily by providing buoyancy to the cutlery so as to permit it to float on water.

**Please replace the section heading beginning at page 7, line 17 with the following rewritten section heading:**

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

wherein the surface hardened layer comprises a first hardened layer which is formed in the region of an arbitrary depth from the surface and in which nitrogen and oxygen are

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diffused so as to form a solid solution, and a second hardened layer which is formed in an arbitrary region deeper than the first hardened layer.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Fig. 1 is a graph showing results of the measurements of Vickers hardness versus treating temperature of a member having been surface hardened by the process for surface treatment of tableware according to the invention.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Fig. 4 is a graph showing results of the measurements of a nitrogen content and an oxygen content to a depth from the surface of titanium or titanium alloy tableware in the first embodiment of the tableware according to the invention and the process for surface treatment thereof.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Fig. 5 is a graph showing results of the measurements of a nitrogen content and an oxygen content to a depth from the surface of titanium or titanium alloy tableware in the second embodiment of the tableware according to the invention and the process for surface treatment thereof.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Fig. 16 is a graph showing results of the measurement of Vickers hardness versus treating temperature of a member having been surface hardened, in the substrate having a hard decorative coating film according to the invention and the process for producing the same.